

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 120, 122, 165, 167, and 184 without prejudice.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and/or listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-107. (cancelled)

108. (currently amended): An adjustable connector for attachment to an elongated member of a bone stabilization system, comprising:

a first section comprising a first section fastening system configured to couple the first section to the elongated member;

CZ a second section comprising a second section fastening system configured to couple the second section to a second elongated member, wherein the first section and the second section are ~~coupled to~~ coupled together, and wherein the first section and the second section are allowed to move within a ~~limited~~-range of rotational motion relative to each other that is less than 360°; and

a fastener configured to inhibit rotational movement of the first section relative to the second section during use, wherein a distance between the first section fastening system and the second section fastening system is adjustable.

109. (original): The connector of claim 108, wherein the first section and the second section are inhibited from becoming uncoupled.

110. (original): The connector of claim 108, wherein the first section further comprises a collet, and wherein the fastener comprises a collar that is configured to compress the collet.

111. (original): The connector of claim 110, wherein the collar is coupled to the collet to limit a distance that the collar can be moved away from the collet.

112. (original): The connector of claim 108, wherein the fastener comprises a setscrew.

113. (original): The connector of claim 108, wherein the first section and the second section are configured to be angulated relative to each other within a limited range of angulation that is less than about 60°, and wherein the fastener inhibits change in angulation during use.

114. (original): The connector of claim 113, wherein a lower limit of the limited range of angulation is about 0°.

C2 115. (original): The connector of claim 113, wherein a lower limit of the limited range of angulation is greater than 0°.

116. (original): The connector of claim 108, wherein the limited range of rotational motion is less than about 90°.

117. (original): The connector of claim 108, wherein the limited range of rotational motion is less than about 60°.

118. (original): The connector of claim 108, wherein the limited range of rotational motion is less than about 40°.

119. (original): The connector of claim 108, further comprising a lining positioned between a portion of the first section and a portion of the second section.

120. (cancelled)

121. (currently amended): The connector of claim ~~120~~108, wherein the fastening system comprises an opening in the first section configured to accept the elongated member, and a setscrew.

122. (cancelled)

123. (currently amended): The connector of claim ~~122~~108, wherein the elongated member and the second elongated member are portions of a unitary, contoured member.

C 2
124. (currently amended): The connector of claim ~~122~~108, ~~wherein a distance between the first section fastening system and the second section fastening system is adjustable, and wherein the fastener inhibits distance adjustment of the distance between the first section fastening system and the second section fastening system during use.~~

125. (currently amended): An adjustable connector comprising:

a first section comprising a first fastening system, the first fastening system configured to couple the first section to ~~an~~ a first elongated member;

a second section comprising a second fastening system, the second fastening system configured to couple the second section to a second elongated member;

wherein the first section and the second section are ~~coupled to~~ coupled together, wherein the first section and the second section are configured to be angulated relative to each other within a limited range of angulation, wherein the angulation allows the elongated members to be horizontally skewed with respect to each other, and wherein the limited range of angulation is less than about 60°; and

a fastener configured to inhibit angulation adjustment of the first section relative to the second section during use.

126. (original): The connector of claim 125, wherein the first section and the second section are inhibited from becoming uncoupled.

127. (original): The connector of claim 125, wherein the fastener comprises a setscrew.
128. (original): The connector of claim 125, wherein a lower limit of the limited range of angulation is about 0°.
129. (original): The connector of claim 125, wherein a lower limit of the limited range of angulation is greater than 0°.
130. (original): The connector of claim 125, wherein the first section and the second section are configured to rotate relative to each other.
- c2 131. (original): The connector of claim 125, wherein the first section and the second section are configured to rotate relative to each other within a limited range of rotational motion less than about 90°.
132. (original): The connector of claim 125, wherein the first section and the second section are configured to rotate relative to each other within a limited range of rotational motion less than about 60°.
133. (original): The connector of claim 125, wherein the first section and the second section are configured to rotate relative to each other within a limited range of rotational motion less than about 40°.
134. (original): The connector of claim 125, further comprising a lining positioned between a portion of the first section and a portion of the second section.
135. (original): The connector of claim 125, wherein the first section further comprises a fastening system, the fastening system configured to couple the first section to the elongated member.

136. (original): The connector of claim 135, wherein the fastening system comprises an opening in the first section configured to accept the elongated member, and a setscrew.

137. (original): The connector of claim 135, wherein the second section further comprises a fastening system configured to couple the second section to a second elongated member.

138. (original): The connector of claim 137, wherein the elongated member and the second elongated member are portions of a unitary, contoured member.

139. (original): The connector of claim 137, wherein a distance between the first section fastening system and the second section fastening system is adjustable, and wherein the fastener inhibits distance adjustment during use.

140. (currently amended): An adjustable connector system for attachment to an elongated member of a bone stabilization system, comprising:

- an elongated member;
- a first section having a fastening system configured to couple the first section to a first part of the elongated member, a hollow portion and a collet;
- a second section having a fastening system configured to couple the second section to a second part of the elongated member that is offset from the first part of the elongated member, and a connecting member configured to fit within the hollow portion; and
- a collar configured to compress the collet to inhibit motion of the first section relative to the second section; and
- wherein change in the offset distance between the first part and the second part of the elongated member is inhibited when the collet is compressed by the collar during use.

141. (original): The connector of claim 140, wherein a range of rotational motion of the first section relative to the second section is limited to less than 360°.

142. (original): The connector of claim 140, wherein a range of rotational motion of the first section relative to the second section is limited to less than 90°.

143. (original): The connector of claim 140, wherein a range of rotational motion of the first section relative to the second section is limited to less than 40°.

144. (original): The connector of claim 140, wherein the first section is inhibited from being removed from the second section.

145. (original): The connector of claim 140, wherein the collar is linked to the collet to limit a range of motion of the collar relative to the collet.

C2 146. (original): The connector of claim 140, wherein the first section further comprises a fastening system, the fastening system configured to couple the first section to the elongated member.

147. (original): The connector of claim 146, wherein the fastening system comprises an opening in the first section configured to accept the elongated member, and a setscrew.

148. (original): The connector of claim 146, wherein the second section further comprises a fastening system configured to couple the second section to a second elongated member.

149. (original): The connector of claim 148, wherein the elongated member and the second elongated member are portions of a unitary, contoured member.

150. (original): The connector of claim 148, wherein a distance between the first section fastening system and the second section fastening system is adjustable, and wherein the fastener inhibits distance adjustment during use.

151. (original): The connector of claim 140, further comprising a compression instrument configured to compress the collar against the collet.

152. (original): The connector of claim 140, wherein a surface of the collar that contacts the collet comprises texturing.

C2 153. (currently amended): A connector for a bone stabilization system, comprising:
a first section having a holder and a first fastening system, wherein the first fastening system is configured to couple the first section to an elongated member;
a second section having a connecting member and a second fastening system, wherein the second fastening system is configured to couple the second section to a second elongated member, wherein a portion of the connecting member is positioned in the holder;
a lining between the connecting member and the holder; and
a fastener configured to fix a position of the connecting member relative to the holder during use.

154. (original): The connector of claim 153, wherein the first section is configured to rotate relative to the second section.

155. (original): The connector of claim 153, wherein a range of rotation of the first section relative to the second section is limited to less than about 90°.

156. (original): The connector of claim 153, wherein a range of rotation of the first section relative to the second section is limited to less than about 40°.

157. (original): The connector of claim 153, wherein a range of rotation of the first section relative to the second section is limited to less than about 20°.

158. (original): The connector of claim 153, wherein the first section is configured to be angulated relative to the second section.

159. (original): The connector of claim 153, wherein a range of angulation of the first section relative to the second section is less than about 60°.

160. (original): The connector of claim 159, wherein a lower limit of angulation of the first section relative to the second section is about 0°.

161. (original): The connector of claim 159, wherein a lower limit of angulation of the first section relative to the second section is greater than 0°.

162. (original): The connector of claim 153, wherein a range of angulation of the first section relative to the second section is less than about 20°.

C2 163. (original): The connector of claim 162, wherein a lower limit of angulation of the first section relative to the second section is about 0°.

164. (original): The connector of claim 162, wherein a lower limit of angulation of the first section relative to the second section is greater than 0°.

165. (cancelled)

166. (currently amended): The connector of claim ~~165~~ 153, wherein the fastening system comprises an opening in the first section configured to accept the elongated member, and a setscrew.

167. (cancelled)

168. (currently amended): The connector of claim ~~167~~ 153, wherein the elongated member and the second elongated member are portions of a unitary, contoured member.

169. (currently amended): The connector of claim ~~167~~153, wherein a distance between the first section fastening system and the second section fastening system is adjustable, and wherein the fastener inhibits distance adjustment during use.

170. (currently amended): A bone stabilization system, comprising:
a first elongated member coupled to ~~bone by~~ a first fixation element;
a second elongated member positioned adjacent to the first elongated member and coupled to ~~bone by~~ a second fixation element; and
a connector ~~coupled to the first elongated member by a fastening system, the connector~~ comprising:

a first section and a second section, wherein the first section comprises a first section fastening system configured to couple the first section to the first elongated member, wherein the second section comprises a second section fastening system configured to couple the second section to the second elongated member, wherein the first section and the second section are ~~coupled to~~ coupled together, and wherein the first section and the second section are allowed to move only within a limited range of rotational motion relative to each other that is less than 360°, and wherein a distance between the first section fastening system and the second section fastening system is adjustable; and

a fastener configured to inhibit rotational movement of the first section relative to the second section during use.

171. (original): The system of claim 170, wherein the first elongated member and the second elongated member are portions of a unitary, contoured member.

172. (original): The system of claim 170, wherein the first section and the second section are inhibited from becoming uncoupled.

173. (original): The system of claim 170, wherein the first section further comprises a collet, and wherein the fastener comprises a collar that is configured to compress the collet.

174. (original): The system of claim 173, wherein the collar is coupled to the collet to limit a distance that the collar can be moved away from the collet.

175. (original): The system of claim 170, wherein the fastener comprises a setscrew.

176. (original): The system of claim 170, wherein the first section and the second section are configured to be angulated relative to each other within a limited range of angulation that is less than about 60°, and wherein the fastener inhibits change in angulation during use.

177. (original): The system of claim 176, wherein a lower limit of the limited range of angulation is about 0°.

C2 178. (original): The system of claim 176, wherein a lower limit of the limited range of angulation is greater than 0°.

179. (original): The system of claim 170, wherein the limited range of rotational motion is less than about 90°.

180. (original): The system of claim 170, wherein the limited range of rotational motion is less than about 60°.

181. (original): The system of claim 170, wherein the limited range of rotational motion is less than about 40°.

182. (original): The system of claim 170, further comprising a lining positioned between a portion of the first section and a portion of the second section.

183. (original): The system of claim 170, wherein the fastening system comprises an opening in the first section configured to accept the elongated member, and a setscrew.

184. (cancelled)

185. (currently amended): The system of claim ~~184~~170, ~~wherein a distance between the first section fastening system and the second section fastening system is adjustable, and wherein the fastener inhibits distance adjustment during use.~~

C 2
186. (currently amended): A method of attaching a connector to a bone stabilization system, comprising:

coupling a fastening system of a first section of the connector to a first portion of an elongated member;

adjusting a position of a second section of the connector relative to the first section, wherein the first section and the second section are connected together;

coupling the second section to a second portion of the elongated member, ~~wherein the first elongated member and the second elongated member comprise portions of a unitary, contoured member; and~~

engaging a fastener to fix a position of the first section relative to the second section.

187-282. (cancelled)